



2009-2010 School Year

“Hands On” Mexican-California Program at Cooper-Molera Adobe and Custom House

Dear Fourth Grade Teacher:

Monterey State Historic Park is pleased to be able to continue to offer our successful Cooper-Molera and Custom House Museum educational program. **Fourth Grade Students** will have the opportunity to experience the Mexican-California Rancho period (1821-1846) through “hands-on” learning. **The program is held at two sites at Monterey State Historic Park: the Cooper-Molera Adobe and the Custom House Museum.** This school year, due to increased class sizes, as well as volunteer availability, we are scheduling only ONE class per program day.

The following guidelines have been established for each class in order to ensure an effective schedule for the programs being offered.



A fee of \$175 per class will be charged to cover instructional salaries and materials.



Each program can only accept class sizes of a maximum of 32 students, providing there is one adult chaperone per six students. This is a safety requirement!!

Classes who arrive without the required number of chaperones will not be allowed to participate. We have had a number of classes last year who violated this procedure and put a strain on the volunteers who work the program. Chaperones are also asked to please not bring additional children, (siblings of attending students etc...), to the program as it limits the chaperones' ability to be active participants with their student groups.

Schedule for the Day:

9:25 a.m. - Arrive at Cooper-Molera Adobe, back gate entrance through Trader Joe's parking lot.

9:30 a.m. - 12 noon – Cooper-Molera Hands On activities.

12 noon – 12:30 p.m. – lunch at the Cooper-Molera Garden

12:30 p.m. – walk to Custom House for second portion of program.

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Custom House "Early California Trade" activities inside building.

What the Cooper-Molera Site Offers:

The students will begin their visit to Monterey State Historic Park at 9:30 a.m. with a visit to the Cooper-Molera Adobe, our 2.5 acre National Trust for Historic Preservation site.

The Cooper-Molera Adobe component offers 'hands on' experiences to students at the following activity stations:



1) The **Cooking Station** where students will learn about food preparation on the Rancho and will be able to churn butter, grind *nixtamal*, make and sample tortillas.

2) The **Weaving Station**, students will learn where wool comes from, learn about the cleaning and carding process, and have the opportunity to weave on a wooden loom.

3) The **Rope Station** where students will learn about Vaqueros on the Rancho, and learn about different types of ropes, and will also make a rope the group will keep.

4) The **Branding Station** where students will learn about the history of branding and why it was important to the Rancho lifestyle. Each student will brand a piece of leather with an historic brand s/he can keep.

NOTE: On rainy days, the branding station will be **not** be available. A leather stamping station where branding history and technique will be taught will be given instead. A stamped leather bookmark will be the take home item.



5) The **Game Station** where students will play 1830s three-pin bowling and also make a game they can keep.

NOTE: Following this portion of the program, students are invited to eat lunch at the picnic tables situated in the Cooper-Molera garden prior to walking to the Custom House for the final portion of the day.

What the Custom House Site Offers:

1) **Custom House Trade Skit** where five pre-determined children will present a short play, "Mexican California at the Custom House", to their classmates.

NOTE: The play requires pre-field trip preparation, as well as dressing up in period costumes (provided) when at the Custom House.

- 2) ***Trade Presentation.*** During their visit to the Custom House students will see and learn which products were imported (cargo), and exported (cowhides and tallow) along the California coast during the Mexican period.
- 3) ***Custom House Scavenger Hunt.*** Students will conclude their visit to the Custom House with an in-house Scavenger Hunt, and each student will receive a copy of a ship's manifest (list of goods) to take home.

IMPORTANT: Any questions regarding the new schedule can be answered by State Park Interpreter, Lisa Bradford: 831-649-7109. Please do not hesitate to call for additional information, to ask questions, etc. We understand that the current student class sizes are fluctuating - we will try our best to work out reasonable accommodations for your class, ***BUT we must be contacted in advance!***

Making Reservations

Reservations will be taken on Monday, August 17. To make your reservation please call Monterey State Historic Park at 831-649-7118 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Please do NOT leave your reservation on the 831-649-7118 message line; if you get a recording at the above number during our office hours, we are on the phone - please call back.

We are requesting that only one teacher or assistant per class call for reservations. Due to confusion in the past year, multiple reservations from one requester will not be accepted for this year's program dates/time slots

For questions and information, please call State Park Interpreter, Lisa Bradford, at (831) 649-7109, and leave a message with your name, phone number and a time that she can best reach you.

A list of program dates currently available for the 2009-2010 school year is listed below. These will be filled on a first come, first served basis. We anticipate that the dates will fill up early, so please plan to make your reservation ahead of time. ***Remember: do NOT leave a reservation request on any message phones!***

2009-2010 Cooper-Molera/Custom House Program Dates

2009 Dates:

September: 10, 17, 24

October: 1, 15, 22, 29

November: 12, 19

20010 Dates:

January: 7, 14, 21

February: 4, 18, 25

March: 4, 11, 18

April: 8

May: 6, 13, 20

Payment

After your reservation has been confirmed via phone, we will require payment no LATER than October 31, 2009 (if your reservations are before that date please remit payment two weeks prior to your scheduled visitation date.) Make checks out to California State parks and mail to Monterey State Historic Park, 20 Custom House Plaza, Monterey, CA 93940. ***If payment is not received before these dates your reservation will be cancelled and given to the next school on our waiting list.***

Teacher Information Packet

After payment has been received, and prior to your class visit, you will receive a ***teacher's packet*** in the mail with instructions and information about the program. The ***teacher's packet*** is designed to enhance your class' experience when you attend the Cooper-Molera/Custom House Museum Hands-On Program. Please review this background information on the California Rancho period, the "Mexican California at the Custom House" play script, and the pre-trip lessons that will prepare your students for their visit. A map is also included with your packet, highlighting the program locations, as well as available parking lots.

We are looking forward to seeing you and your class this coming school year!

Monterey State Historic Park Staff